

A
DECLARATION
OF
HIS HIGHNES
THE
LORD PROTECTOR

For a Day of Publick

THANKSGIVING,

VVith An

O R D E R

OF HIS
HIGHNES COUNCIL in SCOTLAND

For the Government thereof,

For a Day of Publick

THANKSGIVING

IN

SCOTLAND.

*Edinburgh, Printed by Christopher Higgins, in
Harts Close, over against the Trone-
Church, Anno Dom. 1658.*

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LORD PROTECTOR

For a Day of Publick

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HIGHNESS COUNCIL in SCOTLAND

For the Government thereof

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Printed by Christoph. H. in
Hart's Close, over against the House
Church, June 1658.

(41)

A
DECLARATION
OF

His Highness the LORD PROTECTOR,
for a Day of Publick Thanksgiving.

WE being conscious of the mercy of those Dispensations, which have come very thick upon Us within the space of five moneths last past, cannot but think Our Self obliged to call for a Day of Thanksgiving in these Nations; which, that it might be the more seriously and spiritually performed, we have thought it meet to make a brief Remembrance, and as it were in a Glass, to represent the state of Our Affairs, as they stood much about the beginning of the time before mentioned, and summarily to rehearse those things, which GOD hath wrought for Us within that time; that so all such as fear GOD, and are wise to observe these things, and thereby understanding the loving kindness of the LORD, may have their hearts and mouthes filled with His Praise.

It is well known that the last Parliament did, by Adjournment, meet the Twentieth day of January last past, and that these Nations had very good hopes, by those Preparations made in their former Sitting, that we should have gone on upon those Foundations, to an happy Settlement: But those hopes were soon

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dashed, through the intemperance of some mens
 spirits; Notwithstanding it was thoroughly
 represented, that the old Enemy had a design
 of an immediate Invasion, with an Army
 consisting of Papists and Atheists, upon the
 account of Charles Stuart, in conjunction with
 the King of Spain, in whose Councils it was
 agreed more adviseable to give Us work in
 England, rather than that we should assist the
 French, to engage them in their own Country.
 It being also at the same time most visible,
 that others of the inferiour sort of people (set
 on by men of the same spirit with them before
 hinted at) and naturally fluctuating, were
 enclined to dangerous Commotions, seeing the
 Disputes were more readily taken up and im-
 proved, then the putting in execution, and prose-
 cuting the Agreements before made; and that
 the Army seemed to have some unsettlement
 in it self, partly arising from the before-men-
 tioned disappointment; partly, from the great
 wants which were upon them, and fears of
 being necessitated to take free-Quarter upon
 the People (then which, nothing could be
 more abhorrent to them) the Trade of the
 Nation, and Our Honour at Sea ready to be
 hazarded and lost for want of due Supplies,
 we being forced to keep Our Men of war out
 at Sea, not having Money to pay Our Pri-
 vaters when they came in. In the mean time
 Our Neighbours every where preparing grea-
 ter Fleets then usual, and even they in Flan-
 ders themselves, having made ready a Fleet of
 above Twenty Men of war at Ostend, for the
 transporting of Charles Stuart, and his Spanish
 Forces to invade Us. In order whereunto,
 divers

divers of Our Garrisons were by Bribes endeavoured to be gained, for receiving the said invading Army, and Insurrections designed and laid in several Counties by the Malignant Party, to rise in assistance of the said Invasion, accompanied also with that desperate design of firing the City of London, and seizing upon the Treasure that could be found there; Which Wicked Plot was managed by many Colonels, and other chief Officers, who were to head this Tragical Action: All which hath been made evident, as well by clear proofs against, as by the confessions of divers of the persons engaged therein: Some of which have already suffered the pains of Death; and further Examinations touching others are still going on, that all the world may see that these things have not been matters of invention or surmise, but real and demonstrable truths, and things, that as they heighten greatly the danger, so also the recital of them tends to Our end in making this Narrative, which is the magnifying of the good hand of God towards Us in Our deliverance.

And lastly, (which did not the least afflict Us) we had cause deeply to apprehend, that the Lords hand was upon Us in that Epidemical sickness, which was so long continued upon the Nation, and lay sore upon the City of London, and in the marvellous unseasonableness of the Spring, threatening Us even with a deprivation of the fruits of the earth, and consequently with a sore famine.

That this hath been the danger hanging over the head of these Nations, no honest or ingenious man can deny. And therefore let Us now consider in what State and Condition we are,

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and what the Lord by his own Arm and for his own Names sake, hath wrought for us.

It is very true, we are not yet settled, but it hath faced with Us as with the burning Bush, though we have for these five Moneths last past, and longer too, been in a burning condition, yet we are not consumed. we yet live in the enjoyment of a sweet Peace, to praise the Lord in hope of better things: we are not yet wetting in blood. It appears, that as God was in the midst of the Bush, so he hath been in the midst of Us, and therefore we are not consumed. He disappointeth the Invasion, by giving Us timely notice of the Enemies Preparations, and of the place thereof; by means of which Our Ships were layed to break their design. He discovered to Us their attempts to gain Our Sea-garrisons into their hands, and disappointed them. He revealed the Conspiracies in the Countre in order to Insurrections, and prevented them. He brought to light also the bloody and hellish Design for the destruction of the City of London by fire and sword, and hath brought the guilty persons under judgement for the same.

He hath given our Souldiers a spirit of union, of honesty and integrity, so that, notwithstanding the great temptations of want upon them, and the contentments to divide them, to the praise of God we speak it, they retain that good old spirit that hath carried them through all their difficulties. Those that have had too much temper upon them, through murmuring and discontent, are we hope (at least some of them) sensible of the evil thereof, and instead thereof both Countre and Cities have testified

testified a very contrary spirit, a spirit owning mercies, blessing the Lord for them, and thirsting after the continuance of them, and for a just settlement. As for that sore Visitation, how hath the Lord, upon the prayers of his poor people, ceased that? and tis not without remark, that the two weeks Bills of Mortality, immediately after the Fast upon that occasion, were brought to the half of what they were the week before, and did amount not to more discernably then in the healthiest times. And as to the evils threatened by the unseasonableness of the Spring, the Lord hath so contradicted our fears, that we are all of us to be convinced by sense, that the hopes of greater plenty hath been seldom seen upon the face of the Earth.

And lastly, in that place where the Enemy layd all his designs from whence to invade Us, and so give Us trouble, and had brought it to that pass for the heightning of their confidence both there and here, that they were ready even to triumph, as having as good as obtained their wishes, even there hath the great God abased them, and brought them low in a signal victory gained by the French and Us over them: In which successe the French themselves have owne much to the honour of the English Nation, not without admiration, observing that the English on Our part should behave themselves with so much valour and undaunted resolution, and the English on Charles Stuar's part more cowardly then any in the Spanish Army. The Lord also hath in the same place given Us a Port-Town, not the worst in Flanders, which we beg we may make use of to the glory of God, and the good

of the Christian cause. These things being thus, how could we forbear, for the honour of God, to give you a remembrance of them? And how can you and we forbear the returning of our humblest and heartiest thanks to the Lord? How can we refrain any longer from breaking forth into the high praises of Our God, for he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever? Let the redeemed of the Lord say so; Let Israel now say so, Let them now that fear the Lord say, that his mercy endureth for ever. And when we have with our mouths and with our hearts thus blessed God, let Us like a People blessed by him, keep in our hearts a thankfull remembrance of these, and all other Our mercies, giving glory to God and Christ through the Spirit, seeking the Peace and the Truth for evermore.


We have therefore thought fit to appoint Wednesday the one and twentieth day of July instant to be a day of Publique Thanksgiving unto the Lord for these great and eminent mercies, to be observed in all places within England, Wales and Town of Berwick upon Tweed, and do Command and require all Ministers and Pastors to give notice thereof in their Congregations on the Lords-day next before the said Day of Thanksgiving, and that upon the said Day of Thanksgiving they do read this Declaration in their respective Congregations: And we do hereby prohibit the keeping of all Fairs and Markets upon the day aforesaid.

Given at White-hall this third day of July, 1658.

(7)

BY HIS
HIGHNESSE COUNCIL
IN
SCOTLAND,

For the Government thereof.

 Is Highnesse Council here having received the fore-going Declaration of His Highnesse the Lord Protector, for a Day of Publick Thanksgiving, with a Letter from his Highnesse and the Council, recommending it to his Highnesse Council here to do the like in *Scotland*, upon such a convenient day as they should think fit; And his Highnesse Council here being very sensible of the Lord's Mercies towards these Nations, divers of which are exprest in the said Declaration; and considering that the whole Commonwealth being concerned in the Mercies the LORD hath vouchsafed, are therefore obliged to joyn in the return of Praises.

They have therefore thought fit to appoint Thursday the Twenty ninth of *July* instant, to be observed in the Burgh of *Edinburgh*,

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and Shire thereof, as a Day of Publique
 Thanksgiving ; And that throughout all the
 other Shires and Burghs in *Scotland*, Thurs-
 day the Nineteenth day of *August* next, be
 observed as a Day of Thanksgiving unto the
 Lord, for these great and eminent Mercies :
 And the said Council do hereby recommend
 it to the Presbyteries, and Ministers and Pa-
 stors within the Burgh of *Edinburgh*, and
 Shire thereof, to give notice of the said Day
 of Thanksgiving appointed for those Places,
 in their Congregations, on the next Lord's-
 day ; And, in like manner, do recommend it
 to the other Presbyteries, Ministers and Pa-
 stors, to give notice of the said Day of Thank-
 giving appointed for those places, in their re-
 spective Congregations, on the Lord's-day
 next before the said Nineteenth of *August* ;
 And that all the said Ministers and Pastors do
 on those Dayes of their respective Publick
 Thanksgivings, read the said Declaration of
 His Highnesse, together with this Order, in
 their respective Congregations. And the said
 Council do hereby prohibit the keeping of
 all Fairs and Markets within the Burgh of
Edinburgh and Shire thereof, As likewise all
 Traders and Work-men from trading or
 labouring on the said Day of Thanksgiving
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for those places; And also they do hereby prohibit the keeping of all Fairs and Markets in the other Shires and Burghs, and all trading and bodily labour there on the said Nineteenth of *August* next; And do require the Sheriffes and Justices of his Highnesse Peace in the respective Shires, and the Magistrates of the Burghs respectively to cause this Prohibition of Fairs and Markets, Trade and bodily Labour on the Publick Thanksgiving Day to be duely observed.

Given at *Edinburgh* the One and twentieth day of *July*, One thousand six hundred fifty and eight.

*Signed in the Name, and by
Order of the Council.*

GEORGE MONCK.

Order of the Council.

ЖУКОМЪ ЗЯТОМЪ